

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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MARKEY URGES DOJ TO REMAIN VIGILANT ENFORCING CLEAN AIR RULES

WASHINGTON, D.C. --

: Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-MA) today released the following statement concerning the decision of the Department of Justice (DOJ) not to abandon ongoing lawsuits initiated by the Clinton Administration against powerplant operators seeking to evade the Clean Air Act:

"The Attorney General's announcement that he will seek enforcement of the Clean Air Act rules regarding powerplants is, literally and figuratively, a breath of fresh air. Those of us from northeastern states are particularly vulnerable to the adverse health and environmental effects carried on the prevailing winds from rogue smokestacks in the Midwest. The prevailing winds have carried tons of acid rain and particulates into our region, killing the fish in our lakes and compromising the respiratory systems of our children and elderly. We need these rules enforced.

I remain very concerned that the fresh air from the Justice Department will be polluted by ongoing efforts at the EPA to weaken the very rules that the DOJ is trying to enforce. Therefore, I intend to continue my efforts to demonstrate broad national opposition to any attempt to relax these rules. Twenty-three Northeast Members of Congress have already signed onto the letter to the EPA that I'm circulating opposing any weakening of these rules, and I hope to have even more within the next few days.

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